

## Gwen Lake

Gwen Lake is a popular fishing destination on Fort Richardson (FRA). Reasons for this popularity include easy accessibility, great fishing and excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.



### **Physical Data** (adapted from ADF&G's Anchorage Stocked Lakes Series)

<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/lakemaps/html/LAKEANCH.stm>

U.S.G.S Map Ref.:	Anch. B-8, T14N, R2W, S17
Elevation:	50'
Volume:	72.7 Acre Ft
Mean Depth:	6'
Game Fish Present:	Rainbow Trout
Geographic Location:	N 61 17', W 149 40'
Surface Acres:	12.2
Maximum Depth:	11'
Shoreline Length:	.5 miles

### **Stocking**

Gwen Lake is stocked annually by the state (see Table 1 and 2 below) with catchable-sized rainbow trout. Unfortunately, due to low water volume and dissolved oxygen

concentrations (especially in the winter), Gwen experiences near total die-off of stocked fish during the winter months.

The nutrients from this winter die-off, on the other hand, help support a teeming population of amphipods which are thought to give the trout in Gwen Lake the fastest recorded growth rate of any lake in southcentral Alaska.

Table 1. Sport Fish Stocking Plan for Gwen Lake (adapted from ADF&G's *Statewide Stocking Plan for Recreational Fisheries 2003*)

Species	Lifestage	Target Release Date	Projected Numbers of Fish Stocked per Year				
			2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Rainbow	Catchable	25 May	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,000	5,000
Total			5,000	5,000	5,000	4,000	5,000

Table 2. Sport Fish Stocking Report for Gwen Lake (adapted from ADF&G's Sport Fish Hatchery Program—Fish Stocking Update)

[http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/hatchery/stocking\\_search/html/stock\\_search.cfm](http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/hatchery/stocking_search/html/stock_search.cfm)

Species	Year	Total Number of Fish Stocked per Year
Rainbow	1998	3,929
	1999	3,969
	2000	4,807
	2001	5,153
	2002	2,073
	2003	4,994

## Facilities

Portable restroom.

## Northern Pike in Gwen Lake

Gwen Lake is on the ADF&G's list of lakes confirmed to house illegally stocked Northern pike. Even though winter die-off of stocked rainbows is often nearly complete, pike, with their ability to tolerate low dissolved oxygen concentration, may be able to overwinter in Gwen Lake.

**There are several ways that you can help decrease the pike population:**

- I. **Never illegally stock any species of fish anywhere in Alaska.** Pike pose little threat overall to the population of prey species in their traditional habitats, where predator-prey relationships are well-developed. However, when introduced into habitats that have traditionally not hosted such a voracious predator, pike can nearly exterminate the prey base. Remember that it is illegal to move or transport any live fish from the waters of Alaska

without a permit from the Department of Fish and Game. You are also not allowed to introduce any live fish into the waters of Alaska without a permit from the Department of Fish and Game. These actions are against the law, and are punishable by fines of up to \$5,000 and/or a year in prison.

- II. **When you catch a pike on Gwen or any other Anchorage area lake—keep it.** If you do not personally eat pike, consider donating it to someone who does, or to a local charity. There are NO bag and possession limits for northern pike on FRA lakes—keep all that you catch. Remember, however, that the State of Alaska has strict laws regarding waste of sport caught fish—so if you don't eat pike, please give it away.
- III. **Report any illegal stocking** by calling Alaska Fish and Wildlife Safeguard @ 1-800-478-3377 or FRA Conservation Office @ (907) 384-3175 or Alaska State Troopers @ (907) 428-7200

For excellent information on the pike problem in Southcentral Alaska, visit the ADF&G pike webpage: <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Region2/areas/anch/html/pikepage.stm>

## Notes

- Gwen Lake is important habitat for waterfowl, including loons. Please observe these birds from a distance
- Swimming in the lakes of Fort Richardson is prohibited.
- Remember that it is your responsibility to help keep Gwen Lake and the rest of Alaska clean and wild. Please take your trash with you, including your discarded fishing line. There is nothing more disheartening than to arrive at your intended fishing spot only to find the scattered remains of someone else's lunch. Besides being unsightly, this rubbish can also attract and food-condition bears, injure other people (i.e. cuts from broken glass, puncture wounds from discarded hooks, et cetera), and injure or kill wildlife. Take pride in our wild areas and help protect them for future generations—carry out your trash.